

F-2-58

Pleasant View Church of the Brethren  
Burkittsville vicinity  
Private

1879

The Pleasant View Church of the Brethren is a frame one-story structure built in 1879 with later intersecting gable sections and a 1968 addition on the north. Built to serve the growing Brethren congregations in the Middletown valley, the church represents an expanding population in general in the last quarter of the 19th century. Architecturally, the current T-shape plan is similar to the meeting house type found in at least one other Brethren church building at Beaver Dam (F-8-106) near Johnsville. The cemetery east of the church has graves dating from 1822, indicating its use as a family cemetery 50 years prior to the building of the church.

F-2-58

Pleasant View Church of the Brethren  
Burkittsville  
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont  
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery  
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:  
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning  
Religion

Resource Types:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:  
Religion/religious structure/church

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Pleasant View Church of the Brethren

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 6200 block Picnic Woods Road, northeast side ☐ not for publicationcity, town Burkittsville ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Pleasant View Church of the Brethren

street &amp; number P.O. Box 250 telephone no.:

city, town Burkittsville state and zip code Md. 21718

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street folio

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. F-2-58

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The Pleasant View Church of the Brethren is a one-story frame meeting house type church built in 1879 with intersecting gable wings built in the early 20th century and a one-story 1968 addition located at the intersection of Picnic Woods Road and Burkittsville Road (Maryland Route 17) about two miles north of Burkittsville, Frederick County, Maryland. The original principal elevation faces south toward the road intersection and an iron fence surrounds both the church lot and the cemetery to the east.

The main section of the church has a T-shape plan with an intersecting gable facing south in which the original main entrance is located. The building is covered with aluminum siding and the roof is pressed metal. Aluminum also covers the door and window frames. The double doors in the original main entrance are 5-panels. The windows in the main section are stained glass in rectangular openings. A semi-circular window is located above the south doorway. The present main entrance is located in a projecting foyer on the east gable end of the church, facing toward the cemetery. It has plain textured glass in 1/1 narrow windows flanking the double 5-panel doors. The concrete block foundation of the foyer reveals the foyer to be an early 20th century addition. The 1968 addition on north side of the original church obscures the entire original elevation. The church is pictured in T.J.C. Williams and Folger McKinsey, History of Frederick County (1910), showing a rectangular gable-roofed frame building with four bays on the east elevation. The present T-shape plan apparently resulted from additions made to the structure in the last decade of the 19th century or the first quarter of the 20th century.

The cemetery contains graves dated as early as 1822, indicating the site was already in use as a cemetery for 50 years prior to the erection of the church.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. F-2-58

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1879-1880

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Pleasant View Church of the Brethren is a fair example of the rural meeting house type of church plan used in the late 19th century by many denominations. The form resulted from alterations over time which changed the original hall type plan to the present cross gable type. The church also represents the growing population of the Middletown Valley, which had Brethren churches north of Middletown at Harmony and Grossnickle Church, but none in the Burkittsville area until the building of Pleasant View Church.

The meeting house type represented by Pleasant View Church is comparable to the restored 1880's brick church at Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren (F-8-106). The similarity suggests a standard plan which may have been encouraged during the last quarter of the 19th century.

The Pleasant View Church resulted from a meeting of the Brethren Council held at Brownsville, Washington County, in 1878. At that time, Emanuel Slifer was authorized to appoint a building committee. Subscriptions for funds were circulated in the vicinity and the church lot and graveyard were purchased from Thomas Arnold. The early 19th century graves of the Arnold family suggest that the site was already a family cemetery when sold to the Brethren. The church was erected in late 1879 and dedicated on Jan. 1, 1880 (Williams and McKinsey, History of Frederick County, 1910).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-2-58

Williams, T.J.C. & Folger McKinsey, History of Frederick County, 1910,  
p. 497 reprinted 1979 by Baltimore Regional Publishing Co.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1Quadrangle name Middletown, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Concurrent with Tax Map 74, Parcel 246

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

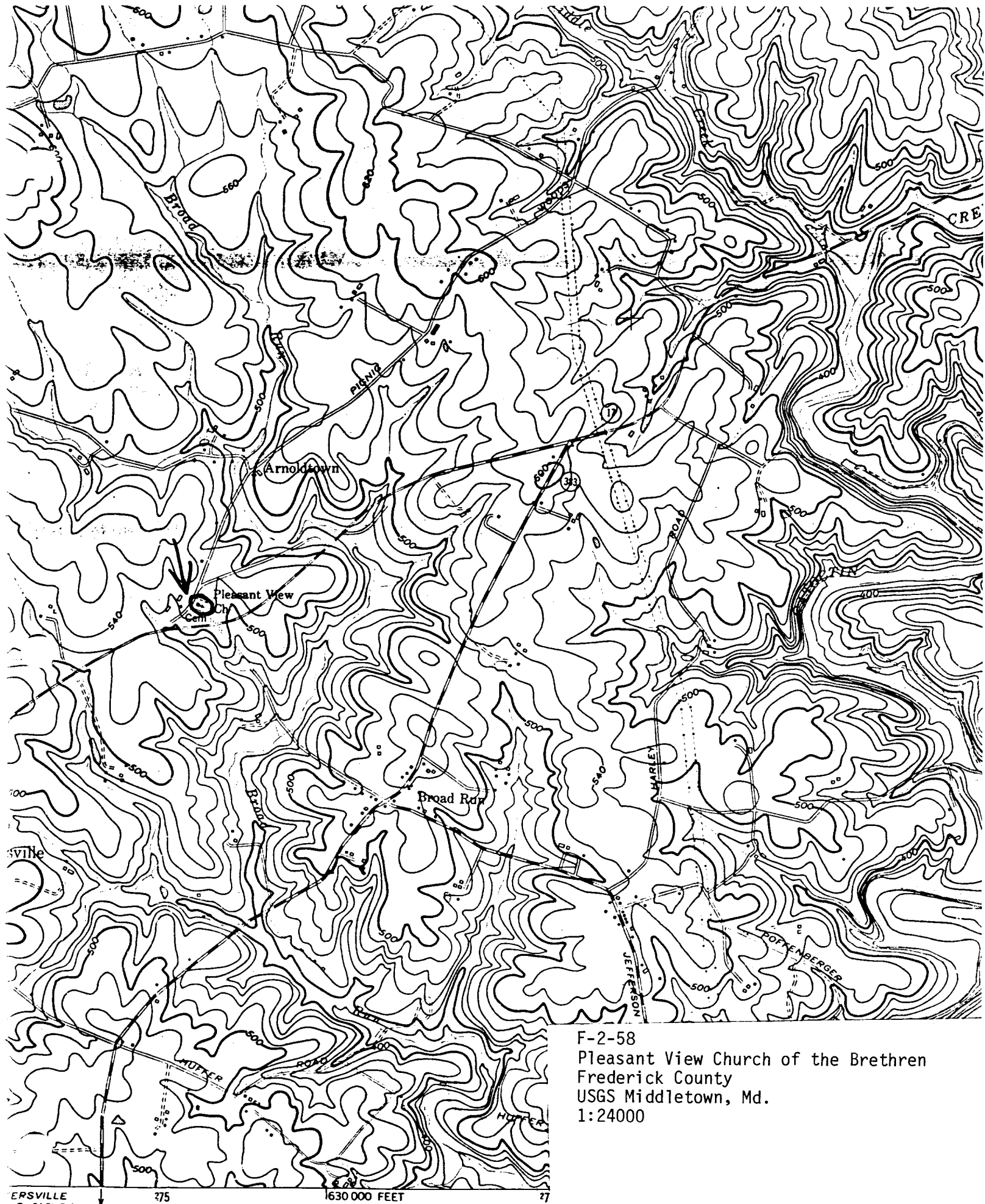
name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date September 1991street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by  
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated  
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and  
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of  
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
301-514-7600



F-2-58  
 Pleasant View Church of the Brethren  
 Frederick County  
 USGS Middletown, Md.  
 1:24000

ERSVILLE  
 U.S. 3401 2.2 MI.  
 the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army  
 published by the Geological Survey  
 SC&GS and USSCS





PASTOR

LEANS VILL  
MURCH OF THE  
BRETHREN  
GROUP 10-30  
NO SCHOOL 9-30  
REV. ALYER E. BLANCH







